

Sims Bayou

A Community Update on Sims Bayou Trail

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Sims Bayou Recreation Progress Report

The Sims Bayou Project in Houston, Texas, provides flood damage reduction for the extensively developed urban area along Sims Bayou in south central Houston and Harris County. This U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) federal project was authorized by Congress in 1986 and amended in 1990 and 1992. Recreational features are included in the project. To date, the recreation plan has not been implemented due to the lack of a cost-sharing sponsor to participate with the USACE on the project. In 1999, the City of Houston participated in coordination activities with the USACE for sponsorship of the recreation plan. Because a period of 10 years has passed since project authorization, USACE policy requires a Limited Reevaluation Study (LRR) to be conducted. The LRR will reassess the project design and public needs, and update project costs to reestablish recreation plan viability.

The updated plan currently being considered includes 14 miles of new multipurpose trails along the banks of the improved Sims Bayou channel. The trails would connect to six existing or proposed park sites along the bayou at Townwood Park, Scottcrest Park, the Hill at Sims Greenway, Law Park, Stewart Park and Reveille Park. Additional features in these parks will serve as rest stops and exercise stations for the greenbelt trail system. The multi-purpose trail begins at a proposed new trailhead located within the Sims Bayou Project's right-of-way on the east side of I-45 (just upstream of Glenbrook Golf Course) and terminates at Croquet Street.

The proposed recreation trail would be an 8-foot wide, asphalt-paved surface complying with Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility standards. The trail would tie into the existing Harris County Precinct 1 trails already on the bayou.

Security lighting, signage, parking areas, exercise stations, and picnic areas are proposed throughout the trail system and at existing parks. Picnic areas would consist of covered and uncovered tables, handicapped accessible tables, grills, water fountains, and trash receptacles. Standard directional signs would be placed along major arteries to provide visitors with proper access information. Trailhead signage at both ends of the Sims Bayou trail would provide a map showing existing parks and mileage throughout the trail.

Public Involvement

The USACE and the City of Houston coordinated early design efforts with the Sims Bayou Coalition and citizen groups. Recommended features that were permissible under federal guidance were incorporated into the design. A public meeting will be held in the future to present the proposed design. The LRR is currently undergoing revisions and, providing all funding and sponsor requirements are met, construction could begin as early as 2006. Trail construction would be initiated within completed reaches of the Sims Bayou Project and would then coincide with channel improvement construction through completion in 2009.

Additional project information can be found under "Hot Topics" on the Galveston District web site: www.swg.usace.army.mil

Please direct questions or comments to:

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Galveston, TX 77553-1229

or email comments to: comments@simsbayoutrail.com

If you or someone you know would like to receive future updates, please forward the name and mailing address of the contact to:

Kay Crouch, Crouch Environmental Services, Inc.
402 Teetshorn, Houston, Texas 77009.

or email address to: comments@simsbayoutrail.com

The Proposed Plan for the New Sims Bayou Trail Includes:

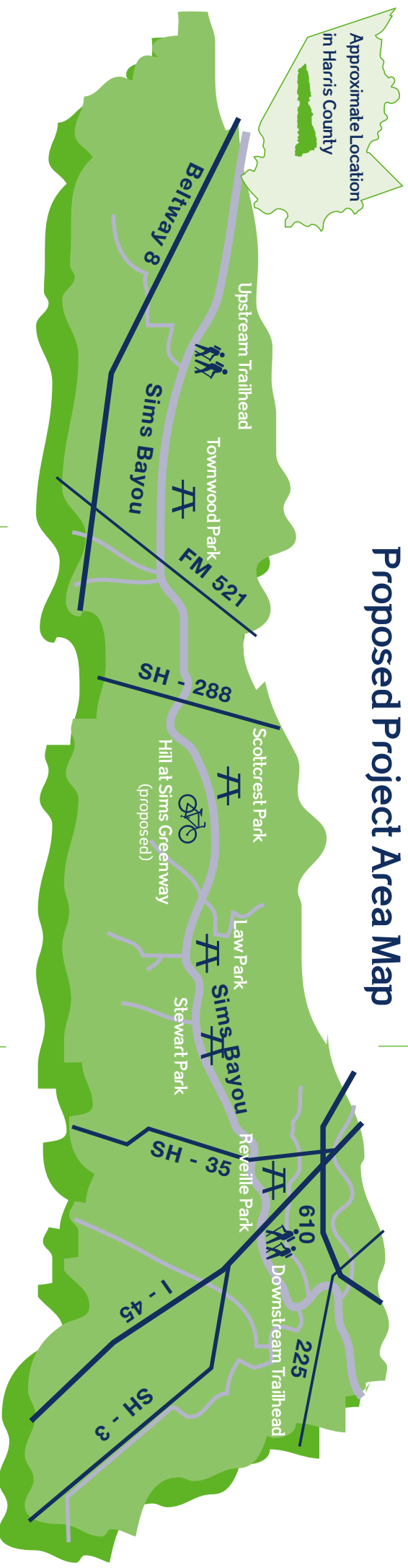
- 14 Additional miles of hike and bike trails
- 22 Exercise stations along the trail
- 88 Additional parking spaces
- 83 Picnic tables with cooking grills
- 43 Picnic shelters
- 60 Benches
- 8 Water fountains

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The multipurpose trail and associated facilities would be located on city or county-owned properties only. The trail would meander up and down the channel slopes from the top of the bank down to the flood benches. Trail facilities would be designed to accommodate the needs of handicapped persons.

Proposed Project Area Map



Proposed new features for the upstream trailhead:

- Signage
- Numerous picnic areas
- Benches
- Exercise stations
- Additional parking spaces

➤ New facilities proposed for Townwood Park:

- Exercise stations
- Benches
- Picnic areas
- Water fountain

➤ Just upstream of Scott Street, the trail will tie into

Scottcrest Park on the north side of the bayou via a proposed pedestrian bridge. The trail would continue on the south side of the bayou where it would eventually connect with the proposed City of Houston biking facility, “**The Hill at Sims Greenway**”, just downstream of SH-288.

➤ Proposed facilities for the addition to Law Park:

- Benches
- Exercise stations
- Picnic areas
- Trash receptacle
- Water fountain

➤ The new trail would tie into the City of Houston's

proposed trail in Stewart Park. New facilities would include:

- Parking spaces
- Trash receptacles
- Water fountain
- Benches
- Picnic areas

➤ Proposed facilities at Reveille Park:

- Exercise stations
- Benches
- Water fountain
- Picnic areas
- Trash receptacles



Proposed new features for the downstream trailhead:

- Numerous parking spaces
- Trail route maps
- Picnic areas
- Benches
- Water fountain
- Trash receptacles
- Exercise stations
- Signage

Project Sponsors



US Army Corps
of Engineers



Harris County Department of Transportation